Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Jeffrey Brawn, Phillip Geil, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, John Marden, Michael Perkins, Sarah Projansky, Mary Ramsbottom (ex officio), Chris Roegge (ex officio), Mark Rood, Kelly Tappenden, Kevin Waspi

Absent: Ted Dimiropoulos, Andrew Hamilton, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio), Ryan Robinson, Laird Thompson, Kenneth Watkin, Peg Wherry (ex officio)

Guests: Carol Livingstone, Associate Provost for Management Information; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Lucy Rich, Assistant Dean, LAS Administration

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:15 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of the Minutes

Malmgren had previously requested the following change to Item III, third paragraph: “Malmgren requested future consideration (as the program grows) to include implementation of auditable checks-and-balances and separation of staff duties. This would ensure operational quality controls.” The Minutes of September 10, 2007 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Chair Aminmansour asked that today’s meeting be adjourned by no later than 2:30 p.m. to allow time to get to the Senate meeting scheduled for 3:10 p.m. at Beckman Auditorium. The Chair turned the floor over to Kristi Kuntz for an update on administrative decisions made recently by the Provost’s office. Kuntz reported that LAS is seeking administrative approval for course changes in the English Department; and also for changes to the Geophysics concentration in the Specialized Curriculum in Geology and Geophysics. The later would remove MATH 380 from the Math requirement; the department feels the remaining 16-18 hours of required Math provides sufficient background for majors. Aminmansour noted that the EPC goes on record as being appraised of these administrative decisions.

Kuntz reported that the Provost’s office has recently received a number of new course proposals from ILIR (Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations) and Bioinformatics. As these Units are not housed in a particular college and are in need of another review source, she asked for volunteers from the EPC to serve in that review capacity. Volunteers for this process are Phil Geil, Susan Lamb and John Marden.

III. Old Business

EP.06.32, Proposed guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218), letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference  Tappenden reported that the first objective of the Task Force was to arrive at a clear definition of multi-institutional degrees, outline the process, define the collaboration that exists and whether or not it would be a benefit to both the students and the institution. It is the Task Force’s recommendation that its report and fully negotiated MOA be attached to any Multi-Institutional Degree presented to the EPC. Tappenden said the Report of the Task Force will be presented to the EPC within the next few days; she hopes that the report will also be reviewed by the Graduate College Executive Committee and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Although UIUC has an agreement with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research in Singapore (A*STAR), whereby students funded by A*STAR pursue doctoral studies under the supervision of our campus, this collaboration is not an official multi-institutional degree. Singapore is extremely anxious to move forward and is willing to give us an extension until June of 2008. Aminmansour noted that a delegation from the A*STAR was on campus last week and met with him as well as Tappenden.

IV. New Business

EP.08.12, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish three concentrations (Human Resource Development; Community Teaching and Learning; and eLearning) in the Ed.M. in Human Resource Education  The Chair distributed copies of this new proposal to committee members. Kuntz pointed out that one out of the three concentrations to be offered will be delivered through the Global Campus. Given that there are two distinct concerns, Dick Wheeler (Dean of the Graduate College) will discuss this proposal with the committee at its next meeting; also sample transcripts will be provided. Tappenden noted that her cover letter talks briefly of the concerns expressed by the GCEC (Graduate College Executive Committee). Although deemed to be beyond the purview of the GCEC, they expressed concerns regarding the lack of resource implications currently noted in the
proposal because this would certainly depend upon the student enrollment achieved via the Global Campus. Further, GCEC also strongly recommends that completion of the eLearning concentration include a notation on the student transcript indicating completion of this concentration occurred via the Global Campus. Full review of this proposal will begin at the next EPC meeting.

Per Recommendation of the Sixth Senate Review Commission, Self-Review of the Educational Policy Committee as to a review of its charge, its operations, staffing, and titles to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate. To be discussed at a later date.

Discussion of the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund The Chair explained that there has been a fair amount of discussions on this issue including some in national publications. He added that some of the information disseminated by the Fund’s web site, certain of its board members, and others affiliated with it have been conflicting and show a disregard for existing university policies and procedure for establishing new courses, curricula and hiring of faculty. Aminmansour pointed out that he believes EPC should participate in the discussions on this issue to make sure that all such decisions are made following our existing procedure and values. He reminded EPC members that a discussion on this issue is scheduled for the Senate meeting immediately following the EPC meeting.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.08.08, Proposal from the Graduate College to rename the Library Research Center to the Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS) in the Graduate School of Library & Information Science Bode reported that he had not received any concerns from the subcommittee; therefore, he made a motion for approval. Lamb seconded the motion. The Chair noted that renaming the Center does not require a public hearing.

This proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.09, Rename the Department of Speech Communication as the Department of Communication, College of LAS Lamb noted that there are complications since the College of Communications is also in the process of a name change. Malmgren was unable to attend today’s meeting but addressed some concerns through an e-mail. She explained that page 3 specifies the changes needed to “certain brochures and letterheads.” Other operational concerns will be the coordinated effort to changes in the online Courses Catalog, which is closely tied to changes in the online Class Schedule. At this point there are 56 courses associated with the College of Communications, having the COMM subject (257 sections). There are 54 courses associated with the Department of Speech Communication associated with the SPCM subject (484 sections). It will take staff several weeks or longer to make these changes, depending on the time of year the request occurs. The coordinated timing of these changes is effected through the Provost’s office to her staff in Facility Management and Scheduling; although Malmgren sees no problem with it, addressing it early on will decrease the confusion to recruits, students, staff, and advisors. She recommends an effective term no sooner than Summer 2008, preferable Fall 2008, as the schedule for Spring 2008 has already been set.

Kuntz agreed that the implementation could be complicated; however, she said she did not want this proposal to be held hostage upon receipt of the proposal from the College of Communications. Lamb made a motion to approve; Ramsbottom seconded the motion.

Proposal EP.08.09 was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Executive Session — EPC Committee members only

Review of the “University of Illinois Global Campus Program Development and Support Agreement” This issue to be discussed at a later date.

V. Pending Items (Waiting to hear from sponsors.)

EP.08.05, Proposal to request the merger of the Division of English as an International Language and the Department of Linguistics into a newly configured Department of Linguistics, College of LAS A Public Hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., location to be announced.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy